Biscuits for Mid-day Meal in schools

1721. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether biscuit manufacturers have lobbied for 100 gm. biscuit packs, to replace hot cooked Mid-day Meals in schools; and

whether lobbying for biscuits was in line with the overall pattern of private sector trying to usurp Government's role in the name *of* transparency, at the peril of crores of children's health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (b) The Government received a proposal from biscuit manufacturers for serving biscuits in place of hot cooked Mid-day Meal. After careful consideration, the Government has not supported the proposal because replacement of the Mid-day Meal Programme through supply of biscuits would not be in the nutritional interest of children since it does not fulfil the nutritional norms, dietary requirement and satiety of children.

New colleges for B.Ed, **and** M.Ed courses

1722. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) is giving permission to start new colleges for B.Ed; and M.Ed, courses; and

whether any guidelines and procedure are stipulated for giving such permission and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The NCTE grants recognition to institutions for running various teacher education courses including, B.Ed, and M.Ed, courses, in accordance with the provision contained in Sections 14 and 15 of the NCTE Act, 1993 and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

(b) The NCTE (Recognition Norms & Procedure) Regulations, 2007 notified on 10th December, 2007 provides for the various norms, procedure and guidelines for grant of recognition to institutions undertaking the various teacher training courses.

Reforming higher education

1723. SHRI VIJAYJ. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether *VGC* has initiated a slew of measures to reform the higher education during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

if so, the details thereof;

whether UGC has prepared an action plan and is working out on modalities for drafting Acts, Statutes and Ordinances of the proposed universities; and